In the Claims

Please rewrite claims 31, 32, 33, 41, 42, 43, 50, 53 and 61 - 63 as follows. In compliance with 37 C.F.R.§1.121, marked up versions of the amended claims are included with this amendment on a separate sheet.

61

31. (Once amended) A method for the *in vivo* detection of fibrin, said method comprising the steps of:

administering to said patient an effective amount of a detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein the outer surface of said particles allows for a stable chemical association with an aqueous medium and wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in the aqueous medium and form a stable colloid;

binding said particles to said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said patient.

32. (Once amended) A method for the detection of fibrin in a sample containing fibrin, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying to said sample containing fibrin a detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein the outer surface of said particles allows for a stable chemical association with an aqueous medium and wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in the aqueous medium and form a stable colloid;

E1 cont'd

binding said particles to said fibrin; and

detecting the presence of said detectable marker in said sample containing fibrin.

33. (Once amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrophilic.

E2

41. (Once amended) A detectable reagent for use in *in vivo* or *in vitro* detection of fibrin, said detectable reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise a detectable marker encased in at least two layers of carbon, wherein said particles preferentially bind to fibrin over other blood plasma proteins, wherein the outer surface of said particles allows for a stable chemical association with an aqueous medium and wherein upon administration of said reagent, said particles are dispersed in the aqueous medium and form a stable colloid.

42. (Once amended) The detectable reagent according to claim 41, wherein each of said particles comprises a detectable marker encased in from 2 to 10 layers of graphitic carbon, at least an outer layer of said layers being chemically modified to provide improved chemical association of the modified layers with aqueous solution relative to non-modified layers, thereby forming a stable aqueous colloid.

43. (Once amended) The detectable reagent according to claim 41, wherein the outer surface of each of said particles comprises hydrolyzed graphite.

E3

50. (Once Amended) The method of targeting a drug to a localized fibrin site *in vivo*, the method comprising the steps of:

E3 Contd

administering to a patient an effective amount of a reagent comprising discrete particles dispersed in a veterinarily or pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient, adjuvant or any combination thereof, wherein said particles comprise at least two layers of carbon and have coupled thereto a drug to be targeted to the localized fibrin site, wherein the outer surface of said particles allows for a stable chemical association with an aqueous medium and wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in the aqueous medium and form a stable colloid; and

binding said particles to said localized fibrin site;

whereby said drug is targeted to said localized fibrin site.

E4

53. (Once amended) The method according to claim 50, wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrophilic.

E5

61. (Once amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.

62. (Once amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.

63. (Once amended) The detectable reagent of claim 41, wherein a surface of said particles is coated with a surfactant coating that increases the binding efficiency of said coated particles with fibrin relative to uncoated particles.

Please add new claims 64 – 79:

64. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said colloid is a nanocolloid.

65. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein said colloid is a nanocolloid.

66. (New) The detectable reagent of claim 41 wherein said colloid is a nanocolloid.

67. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein said colloid is a nanocolloid.

68. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein said surfactant coating comprises $C_{16}EO_6$.

69. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein said surfactant coating comprises $C_{16}EO_6$.

70. (New) The detectable reagent of claim 63, wherein said surfactant coating comprises $C_{16}EO_6$.

71. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrolyzed graphite.

72. (New) The method according to claim 31 wherein said colloid is lyophilic.

73. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrolyzed graphite.

74. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrophilic.

75. (New) The method according to claim 32 wherein said colloid is lyophilic.

E6 cont'd

76. (New) The detectable reagent according to claim 41 wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrophilic.

77. (New) The detectable reagent according to claim 41 wherein said colloid is lyophilic.

78. (New) The method according to claim 50 wherein the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrolyzed graphite.

79. (New) The detectable reagent according to claim 50 wherein said colloid is lyophilic.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone interview on January 10, 2003. As discussed during this interview, we are filing a Request for Continued Examination together with the present Amendment, which is believed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Claims 31, 32, 41 and 50 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Specifically, these claims have been amended to include an additional limitation that " the outer surface of said particles allows for a stable chemical association with an aqueous medium and wherein upon administration of said reagent said particles are dispersed in the aqueous medium and form a stable colloid." Support for this amendment is found on page 3, line 29 to page 4, line 2. Additional support for this limitation may also be found in the description of exemplary FullerTag nanocolloid suspensions on page 10, lines 3 to 8. No new matter has been added.

Claims 33, 43 and 53 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention. Claims 33 and 53 have been amended to recite "the outer surface of each of said particles is hydrophilic." Claim 43 has been amended to